(d) The Department has taken a number of steps to strengthen the Speed Post Service. The network of Speed Post Centres has been extended to 120 towns in the national network and more than 500 stations in the State level network. The tariff for Speed Post has also been restructured on commercial principles to increase market share. To enhance the satisfaction of the customers, delivery system has been restructured by creating nodal offices with dedicated delivery staff and special recognition has been given to the bulk consumers as per market practice. In addition, all the 120 Speed Post Centres have been computerized. On-line tracking system has been developed for the consumers to track the Speed Post consignments through internet. Free pick up service facilities from the customer's premises have also been introduced to increase the market share.

VPT in the Country

1842. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Public Telephone (VPT) installed during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise;

(b) the budget allocation made for each State for the above purpose during the above period; and

(c) the details of Government's programmes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Details of VPTs provided during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 as on 31.10.2001 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Private Service Operators are given in Statement-I and Statement-II (*See* below).

(b) Budget allocation made during the last three years is given in Statement-III (*See* below).

(c) BSNL plans to provide telecom facility in the remaining villages by 2002 with the joint efforts of Private Basic Service Operators (PBSOs) and subject to availability of funds and equipment.

Statement-I

VPTs Provided by BSNL

STATE	NO. OF VPT. INSTALLED DURING		
	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 UPTO 31.10.2001
Andaman & Nicobar	55	8	0
Andhra Pradesh	15	4	18
Assam	826	326	79
Bihar	4602	2276	2308
Chhattisgarh	0	0	216
Gujarat	0	0	0
Haryana	0	4	0
Himachal Pradesh	2577	4002	305
Jammu & Kashmir	448	229	41
Jharkhand	0	0	566
Karnataka	2455	1255	0
Kerala	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	3546	1527	66
Maharashtra	165	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	18	105	0
Manipur	44	13	2
Meghalaya	111	118	17
Mizoram	14	2	0
Nagaland	58	67	0
Tripura	58	4	0
Orissa	2102	2037	650
Punjab	39	564	0
Rajasthan	548	98	18
Tamil Nadu	11	53	1
Uttar Pradesh (East)	8303	14653	776
Uttar Pradesh (West)	4440	3167	85
Uttaranchal	0	0	122
West Bengal	3520	3767	212
Sikkim	10	38	24
TOTAL:	33965	34317	5506

Statement-II

VPTs provided by Private Service Operators

Sl. No.	State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1.	Madhya Pradesh	5	343	—
2.	Rajasthan	—	100	109
3.	Andhra Pradesh	—	5	5
4.	Maharashtra	—	—	40
5.	Punjab	—	—	1
	TOTAL:	5	448	155

Statement-III

Budget allocation made during the last three years Under the Head Village Panchayat Telephone

(In Crores of Rupees)

Sl. No.	State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-2002
1.	AN	0.33	0.04	0
2.	AP	0.00	0.00	0
3.	ASM	15.51	25.00	34.90
4.	BR	41.37	123.26	124.74
5.	CG	0.00	0.00	24.41
6.	GUJ	0.00	0.00	0
7.	HR	0.13	0.02	0
8.	HP	12.93	20.00	16.64
9.	J&K	7.76	10.00	29.79

Sl.No.	State	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
10.	JHK	0.00	0.00	122.58
11.	KTK	10.34	6.33	0.04
12.	KER	0.00	0.00	0
13.	MP	25.86	29.30	2.73
14.	MH	0.00	0.00	0
15.	NE 1	10.34	25.55	37.95
16.	NE 2	0.00	0.00	53.83
17.	ORS	15.51	70.00	137.00
18.	PU	0.00	0.00	0
19.	RJ	0.00	0.00	0
20.	TN	0.00	0.26	0
21.	UPE	36.20	90.00	65.22
22.	UPW	31.03	45.00	27.25
23.	UTTARANCHAL	0.00	0.00	77.46
24.	WB	26.09	55.24	56.98
	TOTAL:	233.40	500.00	811.52

Delay in sporting of mail

1843. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts conducts National Test Letter Runs to test the efficiency of mail sorting and delivery system in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether it was found that almost 50 per cent of the mail was delivered late and sorting could not be conducted properly in Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai post offices; and

(c) whether automatic mail processing systems commissioned in metro cities are grossly under-utilised, while extra amount is spent on manual sorting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The National Test Letter Run (NTLR) has been abolished by the Department *vide* its letter No. 38-13/99-D dated 15.12.1999 as the NTLR was introduced to assess performance of Quick Mail Service which was abolished earlier. The Department is however, conducting Live Mail